



ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

May 2, 2013

Produced by the Kentucky Department of Education

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

Tuesday, May 7, is Teacher Appreciation Day. Show your appreciation to your child's teacher by sending him or her a creative thank you.

For more information or ideas, go to www.nea.org/grants/1359.htm.



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Kentucky college-, career- readiness efforts recognized

Note: This story was inadvertently left out of the May 1 ParentInfo. [Click here](#) to watch video from the event.

Gov. Steve Beshear and Education Commissioner Terry Holliday teamed up with ACT Inc. recently to celebrate Kentucky's progress toward the goal of college- and career-readiness for all students and recognize those who embody or advance the state's commitment to preparing students for success.

"From preschool to career, getting students ready to take the next step is vital not only to their future but Kentucky's future," Beshear said. "Our ability to create and maintain an energetic and highly trained workforce depends on that preparation. Education is the single-biggest factor in determining long-term success for our state – whether success is defined by the quality of life for our people, the stability of our economy, or the competitive strength of our business sector."

The event was part of the ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign that celebrates achievement and creates awareness around the goal of college and career readiness for all.

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Kentucky is one of seven states (others are Alabama, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, North Carolina and Wisconsin) invited to participate in the national campaign's inaugural year.

Holliday said the Kentucky Board of Education's 'Unbridled Learning: College/ Career-Readiness for All' initiative is the department's top priority. "By gaining the knowledge and skills they will need in college, postsecondary training, military or the workplace, students can be confident they will be successful whatever path they choose," he said. "We appreciate the efforts of the governor and our many other partners in helping us make progress toward our goal."

In 2010, only 34 percent of students in Kentucky graduated from high school ready for college/career. By 2012, that number had risen to 47 percent, Holliday said.

As part of its campaign, ACT recognized Kentuckians who demonstrate exemplary college- and career-readiness efforts. They were selected based on a variety of criteria by a state committee representing business, education and government. Kentucky's winners are:

- Citi, Workplace Success Award – Education is a major focus of Citi's philanthropic efforts, business programs and employee volunteer efforts. Citi employs nearly 2,200 people in the northern Kentucky area.
- Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC), Career Preparedness Award – Many of HCTC's incoming students live in poverty and do not meet statewide benchmarks for taking credit-bearing courses. Yet, the college retains students, promotes success and realizes transfers to four-year institutions at higher rates than predicted from entering test scores.
- Murray High School (Murray Independent), College and Career Transition Award – Murray High School has 444 students and performs in the top 4 percent of all Kentucky high schools. The school had no dropouts last year, and graduates of the 2012 class have all successfully transitioned to college, vocational training or the military.
- Devin O'Neil Morton, Student Readiness Award – A senior at Lafayette High School (Fayette County), Morton is an excellent student, and an active member of the French Club, Beta Club and Mu Alpha Theta mathematics honor society.

A national selection committee composed of education and workforce development leaders will review all state recipients and select one honoree per category for national recognition. Recipients will be recognized May 21 at the ACT National Gala on College and Career Readiness in Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Holliday's next Twitter Town Hall May 15

The Kentucky Department of Education invites teachers, administrators, district staff, parents, students and other education stakeholders to submit questions for Commissioner Terry Holliday's Twitter Town Hall **Wednesday, May 15, 4-5 p.m. ET**. Questions can be tweeted both before May 15 and during the live event from 4-5 p.m. ET. **Use the hash tag #AskDocH to send questions.**

Those who don't have a Twitter account and would like to sign up for one may visit www.twitter.com. It's a free service and also offers apps for smartphones to follow along off of a traditional desktop computer or laptop.

Holliday looks forward to answering your questions May 15.

Parent involvement

Education Commissioner Terry Holliday recently received a letter from a teacher regarding parent involvement and the challenges she faces getting parents engaged with her classroom and school. Click [here](#) to read the letter and his reply to the teacher.